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DECORATIVE PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.



URING the past few months quite a number of new clubs have been erected and decorated in Brooklyn, and among these the new German Club on Schermerhorn Street, is not the least beautiful and attractive. The reception room has a frieze and ceiling decorated in metal relief, the colors being white and gold. The dining-room has both ceiling and walls paneled in oak, the panels being afterwards stenciled with gold scroll work.

The ball room, or auditorium, on the

third floor is wainscoted in mahogany, the wall spaces being decorated with lincrusta, while the ceiling has various panels elaborately frescoed. There is a finely carved mahogany staircase, the walls surrounding which are stippled in terra cotta.

A visit to the house of the Union League Club at Bedford Avenue and Deane Street gives an interesting study of the finely decorated interior, some of the finest wood work ever put into a building in Brooklyn. The billiard room is finished in quartered oak, and the ceiling is divided by heavy oaken beams, the plaster panels being handsomely frescoed.

The ladies dining room is trimmed and paneled in oak, the ceiling panels being frescoed in blue tints. The metal fixtures are chased in oxydized silver. The large banquet room is 92 by 40 feet, and has a musicians' gallery at one end. There are some 20 sleeping rooms trimmed in ash and ivory polished white wood.

The library is one of the handsomest rooms in the house, being entirely sheathed with polished hazel wood. The reception room and members parlor on the first floor are trimmed in mahogany.

Speaking of clubs, the "Fort Schuyler House" in Utica, New York, is an object of city pride, and is one of the finest buildings in central New York.

The hall has a handsome quartered oak stairway and has silver brackets for both gas and electric lights fitted to the newel posts. It is furnished throughout in oak. The upper hall is also finished in oak, and is one of the prettiest and cosiest spots in the entire building, complete in its comforts and attractions.

The reception room is finished in mahogany. Above the mantel is a fine painting of a scene on Otsego lake, near Coopers-town. The furniture is upholstered in leather. The walls are covered in lacquered metallic and leather hangings of very handsome pattern. The ceiling has been divided into panels with heavy mahogany mouldings, and the ground work of the mouldings is finished in brass and copper bronze. The electric and gas lights in a handsome chandelier on brackets complete the beauty of the room.

The reading room is finished in oak, the side wall and ceiling being canvased and tinted in oil. A large mirror adds to the beauty of the apartment, while the furniture is upholstered in figured plush.

The billiard room is a model of comfort, convenience and beauty. The roof is finished in ash, the side walls tinted a Pompeian red. The building has 150 electric lights. The painting and decorating was done under the direction of Mr. L. Berlin, while Messrs. Lord, Latimer & Yates have had charge of the upholstering of the furniture.

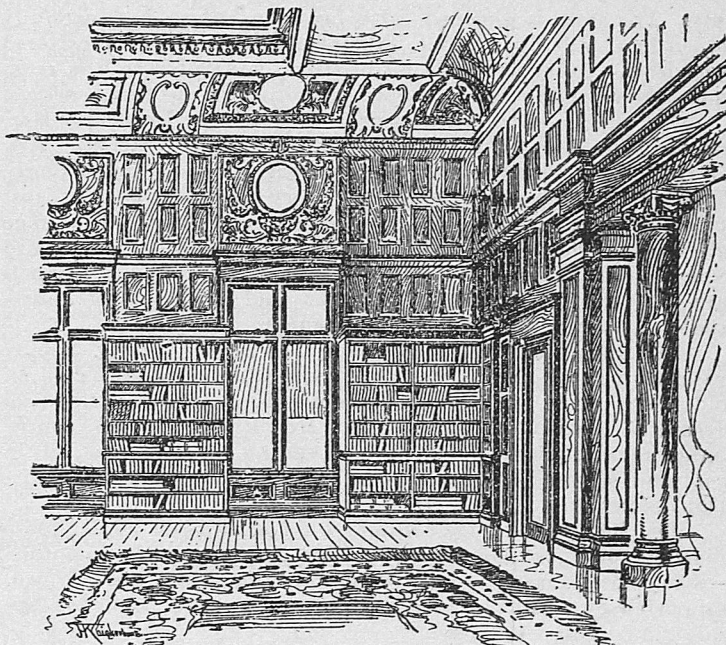
In the city of New York there are no less than fourteen clubs of recognized standing that have either new houses, or are extending, or remodeling their present club houses. An immense rivalry exists between the various organizations as to which will give the best accommodations to its members.

The new home of the Manhattan Athletic Club at the corner of Madison avenue and Forty-fifth street, is a club structure that for elegance, utility and comfort even surpasses the more famous structure of the Manhattan Club, on Fifth avenue, a description of which was given in our November issue.

The Century club house in West Forty-second street is constructed of granite, marble and white terra-cotta on the Italian Renaissance order. The building occupies a lot 109 by 100 feet in size. In the rear of the main structure is an art gallery which extends to the foot of the lot. The membership is largely made up of artists, hence the art gallery is naturally an important feature of the club, and the Century's gallery is probably the most famous private gallery in New York. The membership being pretty evenly divided between artists and men of letters, no less attention is paid to the library of the club than to its art gallery. The library, of which we give an illustration, is situated at the east end of the building, is 50 feet long, 36 feet wide and 25 feet high, and is so arranged that the rooms at the northern end can be made part of it, thus providing a hall nearly fifty by sixty feet in size. The building is thoroughly fireproof in every respect, and will cost, when completed, no less than one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. It is expected that the club will be in possession by December first.

The Colonial Club House, in course of erection, is located west of Central Park. The Colonial Club itself was born but little more than a year ago, and has now set to work to build a three thousand dollar home for itself. It is located on the southwest corner of the Boulevard and Seventy-second street. The neighborhood is replete with associations and relics of Colonial days, and these associations suggested the present name of the club, its first title being the Occidental Club. The building is in Colonial style both within and without. The structure will embrace all the various apartments peculiar to its object, and for the comfort of its members. There are large and small dining-rooms, billiard-room, café, buffet, ladies apartments, a large number of sleeping and bath-rooms, with the usual kitchens and offices. We present our readers with an illustration of the library, the decoration of which, as will be seen, belongs strictly to the Colonial style.

The Union Club House, at the corner of Fifth avenue and Twenty-fourth street, is at present building an annex to the house, which will shortly be ready for occupation. The addition provides additional library and dining-room accommodation. We give a view of a corner in the new library. The extension is a



LIBRARY IN THE CENTURY CLUB, NEW YORK.

three-story and basement structure, of brown-stone and brick. No particularly new features will be introduced in its interior structure, but the roof will be finished so as to be available for a roof garden.

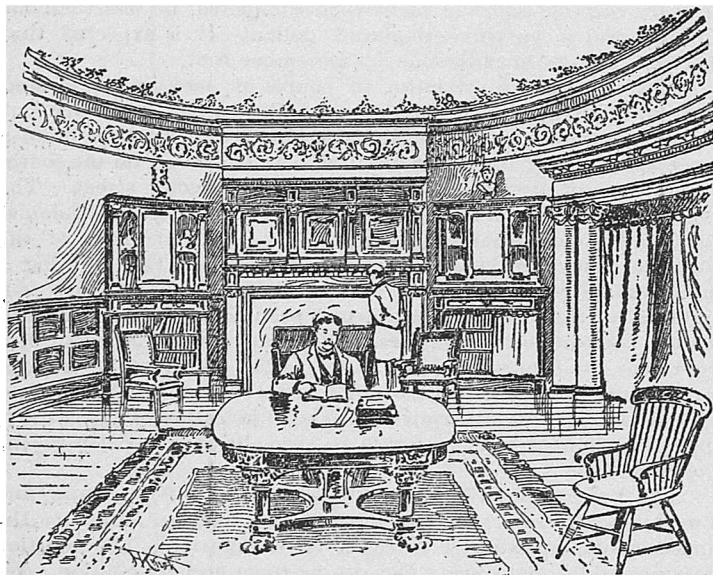
The new Catholic Club House will have a frontage of seventy-five feet on Seventy-ninth street, and will be five stories in height. The facade will be in the style of the Italian Renaissance. On either side of the main hall, on the first floor, will

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be a reception-room and the reading and smoking-room, and in the basement will be several bowling alleys. On the floor above will be the big lecture-room and the parlors. The third floor will be entirely given up to the famous library of the club which numbers twenty-five thousand volumes, and is considered one of the best reference libraries in the city. There will be several private dining-rooms on the fourth floor, and the remainder of the space, together with the entire fifth floor, will be given up to bachelor apartments for the members of the club.

In the matter of clubs and club houses New York takes the lead of any other city in the country. To-day the various club houses in New York are worth in the aggregate twenty-five million dollars. There is at present a building rage among these various social organizations which is accomplishing wonders in the adornment of the city.

Ceramic adornment in Chicago is in a high state of cultivation, as is proven by the beautiful ceramic display now being exhibited in the rooms of the Western Decorative Works of that



LIBRARY, COLONIAL CLUB, SEVENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK.

city. The store is glorified with heavy portières and carefully toned light falls upon palms, cabinets and rococo stands scattered broadcast. Every available bit of space is devoted to the ceramic display of the third annual exhibition of the china artists.

One of the chief attractions is the work of President Harrison's wife, who is a devoted and ambitious ceramist. Mrs. Harrison exhibits two china panels framed in moss green plush. These are effectively placed in an ivory and onyx cabinet just below the American flag firmly grasped in the talons of a huge gilt eagle. The wife of the President has certainly a gift toward comprehensive colors and the orchids and pansies on her panels are wrought with a delicacy of touch and perception of nature that is a long way from being amateurish.

Mrs. Judge Grinnell of Chicago has a very pretty Teplitz vase adorned by griffins and chimera outlined in raised gold on old ivory. Mrs. Clem Studebaker sends a Colport fruit dish, decorated in dainty Dresden style. Mrs. P. C. Hartford contributes some exquisite bouillon cups and an ice cream set, all in gold and bronze tints, on Colport ware, with Dresden and Carlsbad decoration.

Mrs. Emma Kittredge exhibits a Carlsbad open border plate showing the ducal coat of arms of the Northhampton Comptons—three closed masks and a lion gardant under an earl's crown, supported by griffins rampant, ducally enchained, while at the side glow lighted torches.

Among other handsome pieces are cups by Mrs. McIntyre of Wilmington, a fish set by Mrs. Douglas Potter, a vase in old pink by Mrs. Swift, a jar in Pompeian red by Mrs. Doty, an orchid platter by Mrs. Phoebe Rodgers, and some beautiful medallion heads by Miss Josie M. Wright of Sedalia, Mo., formerly a Chicago student.

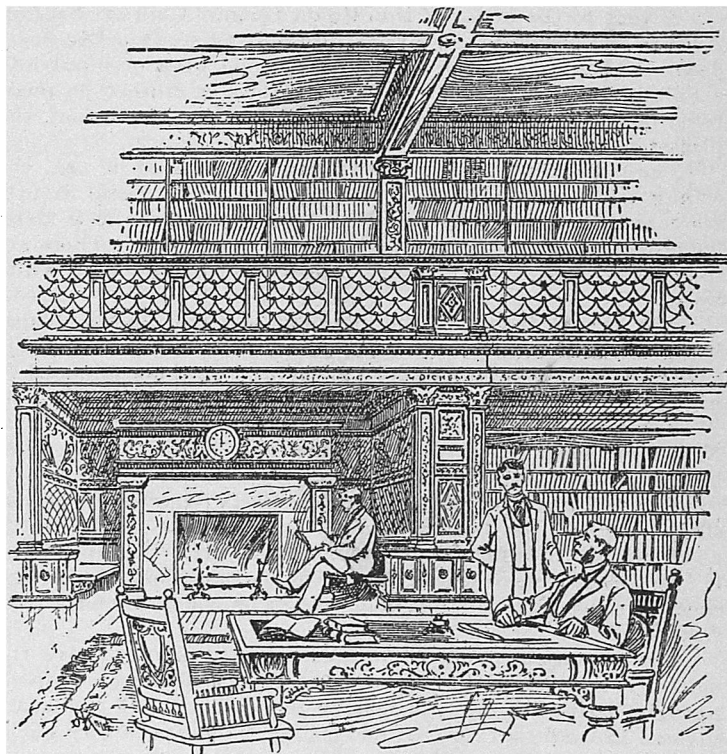
The collection is well and tastefully arranged, and marks an epoch in the ceramic art.

In far off Tacoma the appreciation of decoration as a means

of rendering both business and private life more enjoyable is fully as keen as in the East.

The dry goods firm of Gross Brothers, which is claimed to be the largest on the Pacific coast, with the desire to add to the comfort and convenience of their patrons have fitted up a handsomely furnished ladies waiting room at the expense of over \$4000. A rich moquette carpet covers the floor, the furniture is upholstered in delicately shaded silk trimmed in gold, the very embodiment of elegance. On the wall are suspended several works of art, while the room is supplied with the latest periodicals and fashioning magazines, besides writing paper, pen and ink. In the rear of the room is a door leading out on to a balcony in which is a large window of stained glass, which alone cost \$800.

A novelty in advertising consists in hold a promenade concert in the store commencing at seven o'clock in the evening. Hundreds of people promenade the broad aisles and spacious floors to choice orchestral music. Polite employes are on hand to serve as escorts to the visitors in their inspection of the several departments. From reports received by us the *coup d'oeil* is exceedingly attractive. Skilled decorators and artistic window dressers have been employed to exercise their keenest ingenuity in arranging the show windows and decorating the various departments. Plants in vases, with vines and sweet-smelling flowers are tastefully arranged in great variety upon the shelves and counters, filling the air with exquisite perfume. The supporting columns are beautifully draped in plush and velvet. Fancy goods and notions are placed on revolving stands. One of the windows is dressed to represent a grand staircase decorated with silk and plush. The newel posts are surmounted



CORNER IN LIBRARY, NEW ANNEX TO UNION CLUB, NEW YORK.

with statues and at the head of the stairs Romeo and Juliet are consoling each other.

These concerts are held on each evening of what is known as the fall opening week, and the public is cordially invited to be present. Polite and neatly attired colored men assist the ladies out of and into their carriages

Many dry goods firms nowadays undertake the entire furnishing of the interior of a modern house, and are prepared to furnish everything that is not supplied by the architect. A Boston firm of this kind has made a study of the entire decoration of the home and supplies every individual article of furniture as well as carpets, draperies and wall paper. The result of such a system is to secure a unity and harmony of effect that cannot possibly be obtained when the customer purchases the different articles at half a dozen different stores. Here is an

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outline of how a house built in the Colonial style has been furnished by the firm referred to.

The entrance hall is very spacious, with pillars and arches. The wood work, including the pillars and arches, is painted in ivory white, the wall paper being a large fanciful design in terra cotta on an ivory white ground. The carpet carries the same colors and is in perfect harmony. The portières are of a dull red velour, a color which comes out well against the paper. The old fashioned settees that stand in every niche are covered with blue corduroy, while the independent pieces of furniture are covered with a heavy tapestry of red and blue, carrying also the colors of the carpet and portieres. There is a restfulness to such a hallway, and the feeling that one catches is of hospitality and good cheer.

The parlor is in cream and white which possesses that delicate half brown that has a tint of rose running through it. The carpet is in cream tints. The portières and draperies are in blue and the furniture in the two shades of cream and blue.

The starting point of everything is the wall paper. This is made to harmonize or contrast with the wood work, and from this as the background all the furnishing is done. Given a piece of wall paper a quarter of a yard square with the plan of the room, together with its light and outlook and the color of the wood work and the furnisher has the key to the whole situation. He takes the paper and studies its possibilities, and sees what will be the best to go with it, how his color combinations may be used, whether he will be audacious and seek for contrasts, or whether he must choose for harmony. His mind made up, he goes at once to the stock of which he has command, and under one roof he selects his carpets, his draperies and the materials for covering the furniture.

The dining room is a large apartment finished in oak. The paper, highly decorative in effect, is in a large fruit design, in which deep Indian reds and blues are prominent. The carpet follows in color. The draperies are of velour in a blue shade which is almost that of the blue plum, with a silvery shade across the surface. The extreme decorative effect of the paper makes it unnecessary to have any further decoration in the draperies, hence, the portières are plain with a finish of silk cord. The furniture is of heavy antique oak covered with leather in one of the shades of the paper. There is a solidity of appearance in this room such as a dining room should have, and yet it is relieved from every suggestion of heaviness by the color and decoration and by the paper, which is warm and cheerful, although dark, in its general effect and tone.

The music room is finished in light wood and has stained glass windows and French doors. The drapery is china silk in a most exquisite tint of sea green. All heavy draperies are banished and the only covering to the polished floor is a beautiful oriental rug in the center of the room. All the effects are light and the room is perfectly planned for the uses for which it is intended.

A house decorated like this is full of atmospheres and suggestions and is a constant object lesson in household art and the success which attends the plan of buying all the furnishing of a room at one place and one time.

RECENT DECORATIONS IN THE ST. DENIS HOTEL, NEW YORK.

THE St. Denis Hotel, on Broadway, has been recently enlarged, remodeled and redecorated. The chief apartment in the new wing added to the hotel is the dining room facing on Eleventh street. The architectural features of the apartment are in the Colonial style. The walls are happily varied by a series of panels and pilasters, while the ceiling is supported by beams that rest on a double row of classic pillars, the entire interior, both walls and ceiling, being decorated in old ivory effects. The pilasters, frieze and capitals of the pillars are wrought in classic ornaments fashioned in plastic relief. The carpet is a warm shade of terra cotta, which contrasts luxuriously with the pale yellow of walls and ceiling, the whole producing a feeling of extreme comfort, and furnishing a feast for the mind quite as luxurious as the deft waiters furnish a feast for the body. The apartment spreads out into right and left wings on the Eleventh street side, the whole having a "T" shape. There are also semi-private alcoves leading from the main room, where family parties can have their meals served in private seclusion. The decoration of these apartments is similar

to that of the main dining hall, the walls being ivory stippled and the ornament wiped down in old ivory effects. The wide central window on the Eleventh street side is hung with curtains of Irish point lace, reinforced with silken draperies of a terra cotta shade furnished by Messrs. James McCreery & Co.

Mr. Taylor, the well-known proprietor of the hotel, is to be congratulated upon the possession of a dining-room as fine as that of any hotel in the city. The room is brilliant enough by daylight, but when lighted with electric lights the walls glow with a surprising wealth of color, imminently soft and agreeable to the eye.

The reading-room to the rear of the dining-room is trimmed with mahogany. There is a mahogany Colonial mantel and a mahogany settee, with an overhanging, upright back, of original construction. Both the settee and the furniture of the apartment are upholstered in soft wool tapestry in floral designs. The walls are covered with an olive ingrain, perfectly plain. The frieze is a thirty inch decoration, with a large English floral design in terra cotta tints, which affords the necessary balance to the quietude of the wall surface. The ceiling is frescoed with an olive scroll on a cream ground. The chandeliers have plaster center pieces picked out in olive and terra cotta tints. The cornice has a terra cotta ground and contains a wreath repeat, stenciled at regular intervals. The windows are draped with chenille curtains of a reseda tint.

The old restaurant, which opens upon Broadway, is being newly decorated in classic style in cream and gold. Between the row of windows on the Eleventh street side of the apartment, the wall spaces are filled with mirrors, the frames being also decorated in cream and gold. There is a fine Greek gold stencilling upon the frieze, the motive being the Greek anthemion. The ceiling has a flat gold border, with a repeat of the Greek key fret. The decoration is being done by Mr. John P. Weiss of No. 55 Lafayette Place. The furniture in the restaurant is upholstered in olive silk plush, and the apartment forms one of the most attractive restaurants in the city.

The entire floors of the hotel have been recarpeted, and the windows, doors, etc., have been hung with new draperies. The carpets and draperies were supplied by Messrs. Arnold, Constable & Co., and W. & J. Sloane. One of the reception rooms is covered with a fine Scotch Axminster carpet in soft tints of Gobelin blue. The walls and ceiling are being decorated in plastic relief in cream tints embellished with gold. The window draperies consist of lace curtains re-enforced with chenille and silk curtains. Some of the private suite of rooms have been decorated in a charming manner. A bed-room and parlor *en suite* are trimmed with polished mahogany. The mantel pieces in Colonial style with an over-mantel containing a large oval beveled plate glass mirror. The mirrors in the bureau are also oval-shaped and made of beveled plate glass. The carpet is a beautiful pattern in Brussels from the firm of W. J. Sloane, the design being an all-over scroll in buff and cream tints. The window draperies consist of lace curtains with heavy striped silk brocade curtains in tints of old gold and cream. The mahogany beds are made in Boston, and are beautiful specimens of art workmanship. The bed-room opens into a private bath room. The furniture is covered with terra-cotta silk plush and is extremely luxurious. The ladies reception room which overlooks the garden and Gothic architecture of Grace church, has a fine Wilton carpet in tints of buff and terra cotta. The frieze is ornamented with floral swags in plastic relief and old ivory finish, while the ceiling has a scroll tracery in gold relief on a cream ground.

This decorative work will be appreciated by the many patrons of the St. Denis Hotel, which is known all over the country as perhaps the most quiet and comfortable hotel in the metropolis. "Taylor's Restaurant" is the watchword of hundreds of hungry travelers in quest of a luxurious meal.

IN the study of decorative art there are two books to be consulted; the Book of History, and the Book of Nature. These should be taken together, neither being neglected, for one explains the other. From the historical records of Art we gather the results of experience, and see the interpretation of natural laws. From nature we get inspiration and the material for our practice. If we disregard what has been already done, we must ever remain in artistic infancy; and, again, if we close our eyes to the works of Nature, relying upon the treasures of the past, then our work will be retrogressive from the want of that vitality which the study of Nature alone can give.